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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,342	07/14/2003	Walter Ray Laster	2003P07898US	6791
7590	02/01/2005		EXAMINER	
Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 170 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830			CASAREGOLA, LOUIS J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3746	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/619,342	LASTER ET AL. <i>CR</i>
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Louis J. Casaregola	3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-5,7-12 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All
  - b) Some \*
  - c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

***Objections To Claims***

Claim 6 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(a) for the following reasons:

Dependent claim 6 describes a baseplate as "positioned upstream of the respective exit ends" of a plurality of catalytic combustion modules. This limitation however is also recited in parent claim 1 (lines 9-10), hence, claim 6 is redundant with its parent claim. It appears that applicants may have intended claim 6 to contain further material including the actual dimensions specified in corresponding claim 12. If this is the case, claim 6 should be amended accordingly.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are allowed, and claim 6 will also be allowed if amended to overcome the objection set forth above.

***Reasons for Allowances***

The invention in this case involves a catalytic combustor comprising a series of catalytic combustion modules circumferentially arranged about a central core region and communicating with a downstream burnout zone. Such combustor arrangements are known in the prior art as shown, for example, by Newburry (PTO 1449); note catalytic

assembly 21 arranged around core area 15 upstream of burnout zone 60 (Fig. 1), and note also that the catalytic assembly may comprise circumferentially spaced modules 50 (Fig. 3). Neither Newburry nor the other references of record, however, show or fairly suggest such a combustor in which the core area has no burner and further comprises a face plate located upstream of the catalytic modules' exit ends and defining a recirculation zone as specified in the present claims. The claimed invention is therefore considered patentable over the prior art.

#### ***Additional References***

Nash et al, Mosier et al, and Kappler et al are cited as disclosing further pertinent examples of prior art catalytic combustors.

L. J. Casaregola  
571-272-4826 (M-F; 7:30-4:00)  
703-872-9306 FAX  
January 24, 2005



LOUIS J. CASAREGOLA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

If repeated attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the art unit supervisor, Cheryl Tyler, can be reached at 571-272-4834.

Information regarding the status of this application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR, and status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).